

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY ARA:WPSTEDMAN:MMS:MDK (TEXT FROM WHITE HOUSE)

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INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205712

EXDIS FOR CHIEF OF MISSION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, PDIP, PN, PPDC, MX

SUBJECT: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR PANAMA CANAL TREATIES

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRES. LOPEZ PORTILLO INVITING HIM TO BILATERAL MEETING IN CONNECTION WITH PANAMA CANAL CEREMONIES TO BE HELD IN WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 7. LETTER SHOULD BE CONVEYED TO HIGHEST APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY IMMEDIATELY. IN DELIVERING MESSAGE, PLEASE ALSO MAKE FOLLOWING THREE POINTS: (1) TACTFULLY SUGGEST THAT DELEGATION BE AS SMALL AS POSSIBLE BUT INCLUDE WIFE OF CHIEF OF STATE; (2) ADVISE THAT THE CHIEF OF STATE AND HIS WIFE ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A STATE DINNER WHICH WILL TAKE
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PLACE IN CONNECTION WITH THE SIGNING CEREMONY, SEPTEMBER 7; AND (3) INFORM THAT MRS. CARTER IS PLANNING A SEPARATE EVENT FOR WIVES.

2. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST RESPONSE TO LETTER (AND WHETHER WIFE WILL ACCOMPANY).

3. FYI: OUR CURRENT COUNT IS THAT 15 CHIEFS OF STATE

SO FAR HAVE AT LEAST TENTATIVELY DECIDED TO COME.

4. TEXT OF LETTER.

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I AM PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT AFTER 13 YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS, THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. I BELIEVE THAT THESE TREATIES REPRESENT AN HISTORIC MOMENT IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE AMERICAS, AND I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SHARE THAT MOMENT WITH ME AND WITH CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT OMAR TORRIJOS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO A FUTURE IN WHICH THE SAME SPIRIT OF PARTNERSHIP AND OF MUTUAL RESPECT THAT GUIDED US THROUGH THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL GUIDE RELATIONS AMONG THE NATIONS OF THIS HEMISPHERE.

IN PARTICULAR, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR YOUR PERSONAL LEADERSHIP IN HELPING TO BRING THIS MATTER TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. THE MEETING IN BOGOTA CONTRIBUTED TO A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CANAL TREATIES TO ALL OF US, AND I WAS DEEPLY GRATIFIED TO RECEIVE YOUR MESSAGE OF AUGUST

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15, INFORMING ME THAT YOU SHARE THIS VIEW.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO VISIT WASHINGTON, I WOULD LOOK FORWARD ESPECIALLY TO AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU PERSONALLY TO DISCUSS MAJOR SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO OUR TWO COUNTRIES. SINCE OUR MEETING IN FEBRUARY, OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING THE MECHANISM FOR CLOSE AND EFFECTIVE COOPERATION THAT YOU AND I AGREED ON. I HOPE THAT WE CAN USE THE OPPORTUNITY, WHICH THE SIGNING AFFORDS US, TO EXPEDITE THE WORK WHICH IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS ON ANY OTHER MATTERS YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS DURING OUR MEETING.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF JULY 25, 1977. YOUR REMARKS ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE RIGHTS OF LABOR THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND YOUR KIND SUGGESTION THAT WE CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION WERE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. THE FINAL DECISION ON OUR PARTICIPATION WILL NOT BE MADE

UNTIL NOVEMBER, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOU THAT I WILL TAKE YOUR VIEWS VERY SERIOUSLY INTO CONSIDERATION BEFORE

MAKING THAT DECISION. SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER. P.S. I
ESPECIALLY HOPE THAT YOU CAN BE WITH US- J. END TEXT.

5. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ON ARRANGEMENTS AND
LOGISTICAL QUESTIONS WILL BE PROVIDED AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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